

**JOINT STAFF REPORT
WINTER/SPRING SUMMARY FACT SHEET
July 3, 2003**

Purpose: To provide a preliminary post-season summary of spring chinook, steelhead, sturgeon, and smelt stock status and the results of winter/spring sport and commercial fisheries in the mainstem Columbia River, including Select Areas.

TAC: This Fact Sheet was reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

2003 MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

2001-2003 Interim Management Agreement

- An Interim Management Agreement covering fisheries for upriver spring chinook, summer chinook, and sockeye is in effect for 2001-2003.
- The Interim Management Agreement includes a sliding scale spring chinook harvest matrix for 2001-2005 and allocates upriver impacts between non-Indian and treaty Indian fisheries for 2001-2003.
- In accordance with the Interim Management Agreement, impacts to listed upriver spring chinook during 2003 were limited to 2% for non-Indian fisheries and 10% for treaty Indian fisheries.
- Non-Indian impacts were allocated 1.7% for fisheries below McNary Dam and 0.3% for fisheries above McNary Dam, Select Area fisheries, and as a management buffer.
- Upriver impacts for 2003 non-Indian fisheries below McNary Dam, were further allocated 35% (0.59% impact) for commercial fisheries and 65% (1.11% impact) for sport fisheries.

Endangered Species Act (ESA)

- Fisheries during the winter/spring fishing period were addressed in a Section 7/10 Application outlining proposed non-Indian fisheries that the states of Washington and Oregon submitted to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on November 3, 2000.
- The states managed non-Indian winter/spring season fisheries in accordance with ESA-related impact limits shown below.

SUMMARY OF ESA IMPACT LIMITS			
<u>Chinook</u>		<u>Steelhead</u>	
Spring Snake River Wild	≤ 2%	Snake River Wild	≤ 2%
Spring Upper Columbia River Wild	≤ 2%	Upper Columbia River Wild	≤ 2%
Spring Lower Columbia River Wild	≤ 12%	Upper Columbia River Hatchery	≤ 6%
Spring Upper Willamette River Wild	≤ 15%	Middle Columbia River Wild	≤ 2%
Summer Snake River Wild	≤ 1%	Lower Columbia River Wild	≤ 2%
		Upper Willamette River Wild	≤ 2%
<u>Sockeye</u>		<u>Trout</u>	
Snake River Wild	≤ 1%	Coastal Cutthroat Wild	≤ 0.3%
		Bull Trout	0%

Willamette Spring Chinook Management

- The Fisheries Management Evaluation Plan (FMEP) for Willamette River spring chinook was implemented on February 2001.
- The FMEP limits freshwater fishery impacts on wild Willamette River spring chinook to $\leq 15\%$ and requires the release of wild Willamette spring chinook in sport and commercial freshwater fisheries.
- The Willamette River Basin Fish Management Plan (WFMP) was most recently modified at the December 14, 2001 Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (OFWC) meeting. The revised plan includes a sliding scale for escapement goals and determines allocation of surplus Willamette hatchery spring chinook to sport and commercial fisheries.
- Based on the WFMP and an expected return of 98,800 hatchery spring chinook, the freshwater harvest of surplus hatchery Willamette River spring chinook was allocated 70% for sport fisheries and 30% for commercial fisheries.

2002-2003 Non-Indian Spring Chinook Allocation

- The following guiding principles and fishery management objectives were adopted by the Oregon and Washington Fish and Wildlife Commissions to provide the Joint Staff with guidance when shaping fisheries preseason and managing fisheries inseason and were in effect for two years, 2002-2003.

Mainstem Columbia River Spring Chinook Allocation For Non-Indian Fisheries, 2002-2003

Guiding Principles

- Meet conservation requirements for wild spring chinook, including populations listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.
- Manage non-Indian harvest of spring chinook within the provisions of the *U.S. v Oregon* Management Agreement for upriver spring chinook.
- Manage harvest to meet hatchery escapement goals.
- Focus sport and commercial fisheries' allocation on harvest of hatchery fish by implementing live capture and release of unmarked spring chinook.
- Allocate 15 percent of the non-Indian upriver spring chinook impacts to sport and non-treaty Indian fisheries upstream of McNary Dam and to provide for a lower river fisheries management buffer.

Fisheries Management Objectives

- Manage the mainstem Columbia River commercial fishery to attain the commercial allocation of Willamette spring chinook.
- Manage the combined mainstem Columbia River and lower Willamette River sport fisheries to attain the sport fishery allocation of Willamette spring chinook.
- Manage non-Indian upriver spring chinook impacts to provide for equitable sport and commercial hatchery spring chinook harvest opportunity in the mainstem Columbia River downstream of McNary Dam.
- Maximize the economic benefits of spring chinook harvested by the commercial fishery by focusing the majority of the commercial fishing effort early in the spring chinook season in years where there is sufficient Willamette spring chinook abundance. Commercial fishing later in the season would be dependent on remaining commercial upriver spring chinook impact allocation and would be structured to minimize effects on the sport fishery.

- Maximize sport fishing opportunity during late March through April, *and extending into May if possible*,¹ to provide angler opportunity during the period of peak spring chinook abundance. *Recognize associated economic benefits after mid-March* ². The number of recreational fishing days in April will depend on the annual abundance of upriver spring chinook, fishing conditions, and the level of effort.
- Specific structure of sport and commercial fisheries will be set by the Columbia River Compact on an annual basis to meet adopted allocation policies and fisheries objectives after annual run size forecasts are available and after public discussions.
- Provide for in-season management flexibility to utilize the non-Indian upriver spring chinook impact allocation to meet the objectives of both fisheries, i.e. upriver impact sharing adjustments in response to in-season information pertaining to catch and run size.

¹. Additional language endorsed by WFWC.

². Additional language endorsed by OFWC.

- The following matrix, endorsed by both Commissions, and in place for 2002-2003 was expected to provide a high likelihood of achieving the sport fishery needs under most run sizes and a high to moderate likelihood of meeting the commercial fishery needs under most run sizes. The associated footnotes provided management flexibility necessary for making inseason fishery management decisions.

<i>Sharing of Non-Indian Upriver Spring Chinook Impacts Dependent on Willamette and Upriver Spring Chinook Annual Abundance</i>				
		Willamette Hatchery Fish Run Size		
		< 40,000	40-75,000	>75,000
Upriver Run Size (Impacts)	30-50,000	Comm - 10% (0.08)	Comm - 30% (0.25)	Comm - 25% (0.21)
	(0.85%)	Sport - 90% (0.77)	Sport - 70% (0.60)	Sport - 75% (0.64)
	50-<75,000	Comm - 40% (0.50)	Comm - 35% (0.44)	Comm - 30% (0.37)
	(1.25%)	Sport - 60% (0.75)	Sport - 65% (0.81)	Sport - 70% (0.88)
	>75,000	Comm - 50% (0.85)	Comm - 40% (0.68)	Comm - 35% (0.59)
	(1.7%)	Sport - 50% (0.85)	Sport - 60% (1.02)	Sport - 65% (1.11)

Footnotes Concerning In-Season Management Adjustments

- *In years when the sport fishery upriver impact allocation will be used prior to May 15, and the commercial fishery does not need their entire upriver impact allocation to attain the Willamette allocation or an equitable catch share, commercial impacts may be transferred to the sport fishery. An assessment of upriver impact needs and Willamette allocation will be conducted after mid-April in conjunction with the upriver run size update.*
- *In years when the sport fishery does not need their entire upriver spring chinook allocation to continue the fishery through May 15, the remaining sport impacts may be transferred to the commercial fishery for late spring commercial fishing opportunity. The sport fishery impact needs will be updated after mid-April in conjunction with the upriver run size update.*

2003-2005 Sturgeon Management

Lower Columbia River

- 2003 will be the seventh consecutive year in which a Joint State Agreement is used to guide Columbia River sturgeon fishery management.
- The Oregon and Washington Fish and Wildlife Commissions readopted most of the major tenets of the past Management Agreements in effect during 1997-2002.

Major Tenets of 2003-2005 Sturgeon Fishery Management

- ✓ **Sturgeon fisheries are managed on optimum sustained yield approach which, absent a significant update, results in an annual harvestable number of 40,000 white sturgeon for 2003-2005.**
- ✓ **The harvestable number is to be allocated 80% (32,000 fish) sport and 20% (8,000 fish) commercial.**
- ✓ The plan may be modified in-season if new information suggests a change is warranted.
- ✓ Commercial target seasons are allowed, as necessary, to access allocation and maximize economic benefit consistent with conservation objectives for other species.
- ✓ Green sturgeon-only commercial seasons are not allowed; however, green sturgeon may be taken concurrently during other commercial seasons provided the green sturgeon catch does not exceed levels observed in past fisheries.
- ✓ Commercial size limits are 48"-60" for white sturgeon and 48"-66" for green sturgeon.
- ✓ Sport fishery regulations include; size limits of 42"-60" for white sturgeon and green sturgeon, one sturgeon per day and 10 sturgeon per year catch limits, and barbless hooks required.

- The Joint Staff met with the commercial fishing industry on December 2, 2002 and January 23, 2003 and discussed issues regarding white sturgeon retention in commercial fisheries for 2003-2005.
- The following protocol concerning sturgeon retention in commercial fisheries was adopted at the February 6, 2003 Compact hearing.

Management Protocol Regarding White Sturgeon Retention in Commercial Fisheries, 2003-2005

- ✓ Fisheries should be managed for white sturgeon catch expectations of 2,000 for the winter-summer timeframe (January-July), 2,000 for the early fall timeframe (August), and 3,600 for the late fall timeframe (September-October).
- ✓ Landings during SAFE fisheries are not to exceed 400 white sturgeon for the entire year with winter/spring/summer fisheries not to exceed 300.
- ✓ Allow some level of incidental sturgeon harvest to occur during all target salmon seasons.
- ✓ Conduct limited target sturgeon fisheries during winter and early fall timeframes if feasible.
- ✓ Conduct target sturgeon fisheries during October if necessary to access commercial allocation.
- ✓ Adopt white sturgeon possession and landing limits if necessary to remain within season specific catch expectation or to provide white sturgeon for harvest during subsequent salmon seasons.
- ✓ Until further discussion occurs with the OFWC and the WFWC regarding sturgeon allocation among individual commercial fishers landings and possession limits will be in the form of per vessel limits and these limits will include both mainstem and Select Area fisheries.
- ✓ The Joint Staff will conduct an annual postseason evaluation of white sturgeon retention with Industry.

Zone 6 Management Area

- The Sturgeon Management Task Force (SMTF) met on February 5 to discuss recommendations for 2003 Zone 6 sturgeon fishery management guidelines.
- Catch guidelines for 2003 were not determined at the February 5 meeting.
- Additional discussions resulted in new guidelines being adopted for Bonneville and The Dalles pools. The new guidelines were based on the recent population assessment for The Dalles Pool and modifications to the sharing formula between sport and commercial fisheries for Bonneville and The Dalles pools. Catch guidelines for the John Day Pool remained unchanged from 2002.

Zone 6 Sturgeon Catch Guidelines For 2003

Pool	Sport	Treaty	Total
Bonneville Pool	1,700	1,200	2,900
The Dalles Pool	400	900	1,300
John Day Pool	165	335	500
Total	2,265	2,435	4,700

- The SMTF recognized an annual treaty Indian subsistence catch expectation of 300 sturgeon.

Smelt

- A Joint State Eulachon Management Plan has been in effect since 2001.
- The Joint State Eulachon Management Plan provides for three levels of fishing based on 1) parental run strength, 2) juvenile production, and 3) estimates of ocean productivity.
- During 2002-2003, smelt fisheries were managed at Level Three in accordance with the Joint State Eulachon Management Plan.

<i>Recommended Fisheries Contained in the Joint State Eulachon Management Plan</i>	
•	Fishery recommendations apply to the January - March timeframe, otherwise permanent regulations remain in effect.
	<u>Level One</u>
✓	Great uncertainty in run strength or indications of a poor return.
✓	Commercial fisheries are limited to one 12-24 hour fishing period per week for the Columbia and Cowlitz rivers.
✓	Tributary sport fisheries would also consist of one 12-24 hour fishing period per week in the Cowlitz River.
	<u>Level Two</u>
✓	Promising abundance in the spawning return and productivity indices that are favorable, yet it is still uncertain whether the run is moderate or strong.
✓	Commercial fisheries would consist of two or three days per week in the Columbia and Cowlitz rivers.
✓	Tributary sport fisheries could be increased to two or three days per week.
✓	Consider expansion of sport and commercial fisheries into other lower Columbia River tributaries.
	<u>Level Three</u>
✓	Very positive indicators of strong abundance and productivity.
✓	Commercial fisheries would consist of up to four days per week in the Columbia River and all lower Columbia River tributaries.
✓	Tributary sport fisheries should be opened in all tributaries for four to seven days per week.

STOCK STATUS

Spring Chinook

- The preseason spring chinook run size forecasts included returns of 145,400 upriver stock and 109,800 Willamette stock to the Columbia River mouth.
- The TAC met five times between April 14 and May 21 to update the upriver run size with the following results:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Upriver Run Size</u>
April 14	158,000-190,000
April 21	193,000
April 28	193,000
May 5	193,000
May 21	203,000

- The upriver run size totaled 208,430 which is a 43% increase over the preseason run size forecast. The Bonneville Dam count was 195,770 adults which is the third largest count since at least 1960.
- The adult upriver spring chinook return is the fifth largest return observed since at least 1960.

- A total of 14,466 spring chinook jacks passed Bonneville Dam in 2003 which is the fourth largest count since at least 1960.
- The total return (adults and jacks) of 222,896 upriver spring chinook to the Columbia River mouth is the ninth largest return since at least 1938.
- The Willamette spring chinook return is also expected to exceed preseason projections with 120,000-140,000 entering the Columbia River which is similar to the record large return of 130,600 in 1990.
- The total Cowlitz, Kalama, Lewis spring chinook return of 18,000 is the largest return since 1993 and well above the preseason projection of 11,600.

Smelt

- Based on commercial fishery landings smelt stock status remained at Level Three throughout the duration of the fishery.
- Significant sport and commercial landings occurred in 2003 in the Sandy River for the first time since 1988. A small run lasting four days with some sport dipping occurred in 2001.
- Washington tributary commercial landings were the second largest since 1993.

Wild Winter Steelhead

- The preseason forecast was for a return of 15,500 wild winter steelhead to the Columbia River mouth.

<i>2003 Wild Winter Steelhead Returns</i>					
	Returns	As Of:	Percent Complete	Projected Total	Comments
Willamette Falls	8,681	May 15	100%	8,681	Counts end by convention on May 15. This year's count is the 3 rd highest count since 1996, which is the first year that wild fish were specified.
North Fork Dam	1,230	June 23	99%	1,230	Official count ends June 30. This year's count is about 275 fish below average based on a wild fish data set since 1958.
Marmot Dam	671	June 23	99%	675	Official count ends June 30. This year's count is the lowest count since 2000, which is the first year that wild fish were specified.
Bonneville Dam	2,159	June 15	100%	2,159	Counts by convention between January 1 and June 15; total unmarked steelhead count; may include both winter and summer steelhead. This year's count is 68% of the 2002 count, which is the first record that starts January 1.
Powerdale Dam	608	June 22	99%	610	Official count ends June 30. This year's count is about 85 fish above the average run size measured since 1992.

- Willamette wild winter steelhead typically represent 55% of the total wild winter steelhead return to the Columbia River which would project a total wild winter steelhead return of 15,800. During 1993-2002 Willamette wild winter steelhead comprised 36-77% of the Columbia River wild winter steelhead return.

NON-INDIAN COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

2003 Smelt Fisheries

- A Level 3 commercial smelt fishery in the mainstem Columbia River was adopted at the December 18, 2002 Compact hearing.
- The adopted fishery consisted of four 18-hour fishing periods per week (3 AM-9 PM Sundays, Tuesday, Thursdays, and Fridays) and occurred during January 1 - March 31, 2003.
- Columbia River mainstem landings totaled 15,000 pounds.
- Level 3 commercial and sport fisheries were also adopted for Washington tributaries of the Columbia River for 2003.
- The Cowlitz, Kalama, and Lewis rivers were open to commercial smelt fishing weekly from 6 PM Sunday through 6 AM Monday, 6 PM Tuesday through 6 AM Wednesday, and 6 PM Wednesday through 6 AM Thursday during January 1-March 31, 2003. Other Washington tributaries remain closed to commercial smelt fishing.
- The Sandy River was open to commercial smelt fishing seven days per week from December 1, 2002 through March 31, 2003 as per permanent regulations.
- Tributary commercial landings totaled 598,000 pounds with 291,000 pounds from the Cowlitz River, 284,000 pounds from the Lewis River, and 23,000 pounds from the Sandy River.
- All Washington tributaries of the Columbia River were open for sport smelt fishing seven days per week from 6 AM to 10 PM daily during January 1-March 31, 2003 while the Columbia River and Oregon tributaries of the Columbia River were open seven days per week the entire year.

2003 Winter Commercial Sturgeon Fishery

- At the December 18, 2002 Compact hearing the initial winter commercial sturgeon season was adopted with a 1,500 white sturgeon catch guideline in effect.
- Catch rates exceeded expectations and when it became apparent that landings would exceed the 1,500 white sturgeon catch guideline, the Compact modified the originally adopted season at hearings occurring on January 24, 2003 and January 31, 2003.
- The winter fishery ultimately consisted of three 30-hour fishing periods from noon Tuesday to 6 PM Wednesday during January 7-January 22 followed by one 12-hour fishing period from 6 AM-6 PM on Tuesday January 28.
- Season total landings included 1,517 white sturgeon and one spring chinook.

Non-Indian Salmon Commercial Demonstration Fishery

- At the February 6 Compact hearing six 16-hour daylight fishing periods were adopted for the area below Kelley Point.
- Based on the higher than expected impact rate on upriver spring chinook the Compact subsequently met on February 20 and rescinded the final four fishing periods of the adopted season. Additional Compact hearings occurred on February 25, March 4, and March 19 to consider additional fishing periods. No fishing periods were adopted at the February 25 or March 4 Compact hearings and the final 10-hour season was adopted at the March 19 Compact hearing.

<i>2003 Non-Indian Spring Chinook Commercial Demonstration Fishery</i>		
Season:	5 AM - 9 PM Monday February 17 (16 hours) 5 AM - 9 PM Wednesday February 19 (16 hours) 9 AM - 7 PM Friday March 21 (10 hours)	
Area:	Mouth upstream to Kelley Point (Zones 1 - 4).	
Sanctuaries:	Gray River, Gnat Creek, Elokomina-A, Abernathy Creek, Cowlitz River, Kalama-A, and Lewis-A sanctuaries.	
Gear:	Net length not to exceed 150 fathoms. 8" minimum mesh and 9-¾" maximum size restrictions in effect during the February 17 and February 19 fishing periods and 4-¼" maximum mesh size restriction with optional steelhead excluder device in effect during the March 21 fishing period.	
Allowable Sales:	Adipose fin-clipped chinook salmon and sturgeon. A maximum of 3 white sturgeon may be possessed or sold by each participating vessel during each open period.	
Participants:	Columbia River commercial fishers with appropriate licenses and legal gear that attended a state-sponsored workshop concerning live captive commercial fishing techniques and possess a certificate that allows participation in this fishery.	
Miscellaneous Regulations:	Soak times, defined as time elapsed from when first mesh enters the water to when last mesh leaves the water, must not exceed 45 minutes. A red cork is required at 25 fathom intervals and red corks must be in contrast to the corks used in the remainder of the net. Use of recovery boxes will be required on all lethargic or bleeding fish. Each participant will be required to have two operable recovery boxes or one box with two chambers in place to participate in the fishery. Operable recovery boxes will require a flow of 16-20 gallons per minute to the box or each chamber.	

- A total of six voluntary test fishing periods occurred between February 17 and March 17. The purpose of these test fisheries was to collect data regarding spring chinook and steelhead abundance plus spring chinook stock composition to determine the optimum time for the final fishing period of the season to occur.

<i>Monitoring Results From 2003 Demonstration and Test Fisheries</i>							
Date	Mesh Size	Boats	Drifts	Chinook			Catch Ratio
				Catch Per Drift	Mark Rate	Percent Lower River	Marked Chinook: Unmarked Steelhead
Feb 17	8"-9¾"	36	72	0.4	44%	22%	2.5:1
Feb 19	8"-9¾"	36	84	0.5	50%	15%	4.4:1
Feb 25	≤4¼"	6	22	1.0	76%	50%	1.1:1
Mar 3	≤4¼"	6	21	0.6	46%	25%	2.0:1
Mar 10	≤4¼"	9	30	1.7	56%	66%	2.7:1
Mar 17	≤4¼"	11	31	3.7	58%	58%	5.6:1
Mar 21	≤4¼"	36	81	1.6	58%	28%	2.0:1

- During the 3-day commercial season staff monitored a total of 108 boats and 237 drifts.
- Total landings were well below preseason expectations and the 17,500 Willamette Hatchery spring chinook commercial allocation was not achieved.

<i>Chinook and Steelhead During 2003 Commercial Demonstration Fishery (Preliminary)</i>									
Fishing Period	Chinook Kept				Chinook Released			Steelhead	
	Upriver		Willamette River Stock	Other Lower River Stock	Upriver		Other Lower River Stocks	Released	
	Total	Stock			Total	Stock		Total	Wild
Feb 17+19 (8"-9¾")	539	389	113	37	587	548	39	174	141
March 21 (≤4-¼")	2,634	1,623	805	206	1,907	1,655	252	2,010	945
Total	3,173	2,012	918	243	2,494	2,203	291	2,184	1,086

- Long-term release mortality rates used to determine impact rates were the same as those recommended by the TAC: 50% for chinook and 35% for steelhead in large mesh (8"-9 ¾") gear and 25% for chinook and 20% for steelhead in small mesh (≤4¼") gear.
- The preliminary estimate of impacts to listed species totaled 0.618% on upriver spring chinook (based on updated run size), 0.295% on Willamette wild spring chinook (based on preseason run size), and 1.538% on wild winter steelhead (based on preseason run size) for the season.

Select Area Commercial Salmon Fisheries

- Select Area winter seasons adopted at the February 6 Compact hearing were originally scheduled to consist of three 12-hour nightly fishing periods in Blind Slough on the nights of February 15, February 22, and March 1 and alternating 16-hour (5 AM-9 PM Tuesday) and 30-hour (noon Saturday-6 PM Sunday) fishing periods in Youngs Bay between the dates of February 18 and March 9.
- Due to larger than expected impacts to upriver stocks the Compact met February 26 and rescinded the final three fishing periods in Youngs Bay (two 30-hour periods and one 16-hour period). No modifications were adopted for the ongoing fishery in the Blind Slough Select Area.
- Select Area spring seasons adopted at the February 6 Compact hearing were originally scheduled to occur weekly during mid-April through mid-June in Tongue Point, Blind Slough, Deep River, and Youngs Bay.
- Due to the larger than expected impact on upriver stocks the Compact met on April 24, April 28, and May 5 and rescinded and/or modified the majority of the previously adopted fishing periods scheduled to occur during April 24 through May 9.
- Open fishing periods during April 24-May 9 were reduced from five to two in Blind Slough and from seven to two in Deep River with the open fishing area also reduced for both sites. The Youngs Bay fishery was reduced from a total of nine fishing days to one 8-hour fishing period with no changes to the open fishing area. The spring season in Tongue Point was eliminated completely.

<i>Spring Chinook Landings During 2003 Winter and Spring Commercial Fisheries</i>					
Fishery	Time Period	Total Catch	Upriver Catch	Upriver Percent	Upriver Impact
Winter Blind Slough	Feb 18-March 2	12	0	0%	0.000%
Winter Youngs Bay	Feb 18-25	77	34	44%	0.016%
Spring Tongue Point	April 16-17	345	65	19%	0.031%
Spring Blind Slough	April 17-June 13	2,029	49	2%	0.023%
Spring Youngs Bay	April 16-June 12	4,921	256	5%	0.123%
Spring Deep River	April 18-May 14	114	22	19%	0.011%
Total	Feb 18-June 13	7,498	426	6%	0.204%

- A total of 7,500 spring chinook were landed in all Select Area winter and spring seasons as compared to the 10,000-14,000 expected preseason. Catches were similar to preseason expectations in Youngs Bay and Blind Slough but were well below preseason catch expectations for Tongue Point and for Deep River.

2003 Mainstem Spring Chinook Sport Fishery

- The mainstem Columbia River from the mouth at Buoy 10 upstream to the I-5 Bridge is open to salmon angling during January 1 through March 31 under permanent regulations.

- At the February 6 Joint State hearing the ongoing sport fishery was modified to extend through May 15 below the I-5 Bridge and be open in the area from I-5 Bridge to McNary Dam, excluding boat and Washington bank angling between Bonneville Dam and Tower Island, during February 15 through May 15.
- A Joint State meeting was held in April and the ongoing sport season in the area below the I-5 Bridge was subsequently reduced from seven days per week to four days per week effective April 6. Additionally, the area between the I-5 Bridge and Bonneville Dam was closed completely effective April 6. No modifications were adopted for fisheries occurring above Bonneville Dam at this meeting. These modifications were necessary to keep the non-Indian upriver impact below 2.0%.
- Additional Joint State meetings occurred on April 15 and April 22 with no modification to ongoing sport fisheries being adopted at that time.
- On April 28 a Joint State meeting occurred and the ongoing sport season between Bonneville and McNary dams was reduced from seven days per week to four days per week effective May 4.
- The final Joint State meeting occurred on May 5 and the ongoing sport fishing was not modified at that meeting.

2003 Non-Indian Spring Chinook Sport Fishery	
Area and Dates:	<p>Columbia River mouth upstream to the I-5 Bridge Open 7 days per week January 1 - April 5 Open 4 days per week (Wednesday through Saturday) April 6-May 15</p> <p>I-5 Bridge upstream to Bonneville Dam Open 7 days per week February 15-April 5 Closed 7 days per week April 6-May 15</p> <p>Tower Island to McNary Dam plus Oregon Bank from Bonneville Dam to Tower Island Open 7 days per week February 15- May 3 Open 4 days per week (Wednesday through Saturday) May 4-15</p>
Catch Limits:	2 adipose fin-clipped adult salmon per day per permanent rules.

- Season total landings were similar to preseason expectations although the goal of prosecuting a seven day per week fishery through May 15 was not achieved.
- Long term release mortality rates used to determine impact rates were the same as those used in past fisheries, 10%.

Catch and Effort During the 2003 Mainstem Spring Chinook Sport Fishery					
Time Period	Angler Trips	Total Catch	Kept Catch	Upriver Stock	
				%	Impact
<u>Below Bonneville Dam</u>					
February	9,600	432	209 (48%)	100%	0.021%
March	65,800	8,790	5,597 (64%)	82%	0.347%
April	66,400	13,839	9,110 (66%)	53%	0.350%
May 1-15	19,000	2,958	1,976 (67%)	38%	0.053%
Total	160,800	26,019	16,892 (65%)	62%	0.771%
<u>Bonneville to McNary Dam</u>					
Total	NA	1,999	1,136 (57%)	100%	0.096%
<u>Below McNary Dam</u>					
Grand Total	NA	28,018	18,028 (64%)	65%	0.867%

Non-Indian Impact Totals

- Upriver impacts for non-Indian fisheries downstream of McNary Dam totaled 1.70%. Impacts from Snake River sport fisheries and Wanapum tribal fisheries are not available but the total impact on upriver spring chinook will be less than 2%.
- Upriver impacts from commercial fisheries totaled 0.82% and were comprised of 0.62% (0.59% preseason allocation) in mainstem fisheries and 0.20% in Select Areas.
- Upriver impacts from sport fisheries below McNary Dam totaled 0.87% (1.11% preseason allocation) and were comprised of 0.77% below Bonneville Dam and 0.10% between Bonneville and McNary dams.

TREATY INDIAN FISHERIES

2003 Treaty Indian Sturgeon Setline Season

- Under permanent Compact rules the commercial sturgeon setline fishery was open from January 1-31, 2003.
- Landings totaled 17 white sturgeon.

2003 Treaty Indian Winter Gillnet Season

- The treaty Indian mainstem winter commercial season was adopted at the December 18, 2002 Compact hearing.
- The adopted season included all of Zone 6 from noon Saturday February 1 through noon Friday March 21.
- Other fishery regulations in effect included all standard sanctuaries, except no Spring Creek sanctuary; no mesh size restrictions; allowable sales of salmon, steelhead, shad, walleye, and carp; and 48"-60" size limits for sturgeon.
- Landings for the season totaled 1,189 chinook, 819 steelhead, 1,313 sturgeon, and 102 walleye.

2003 Treaty Indian Spring Gillnet Season

- Compact hearings occurred on April 23, May 21, and May 28 to consider commercial spring chinook fishing seasons with 2 ½ day seasons adopted at each hearing.

<i>2003 Treaty Indian Commercial Fishery</i>	
Season:	6 AM Thursday April 24 to 6 PM Saturday April 26 (2½-days) 6 AM Thursday May 22 to 6 PM Saturday May 24 (2½-days) 6 AM Thursday May 29 to 6 PM Saturday May 31 (2½-days)
Area:	All of Zone 6
Sanctuaries:	All standard sanctuaries in effect, except no Spring Creek sanctuary.
Gear:	No mesh restrictions
Allowable Sales:	Chinook salmon, steelhead, walleye, carp, and shad. Sturgeon could be retained for subsistence purposes.

- For the season a total of 8,348 chinook, 32 steelhead, 7 sturgeon, and 41 walleye were landed.

<i>Treaty Indian Landings During Winter/Spring Fisheries in 2003</i>				
Fishery	Chinook	Steelhead	Sturgeon	Walleye
Winter Gillnet	1,189	819	1,313	102
Ceremonial	6,000			
Platform/H&L (5/31)	2,680	310		
April 24-26				
Ticket	4,278	2		13
Non-Ticket	1,640	3		17
Total	5,918	5	0	30
May 22-24				
Ticket	579	17		2
Non-Ticket	780	4		1
Total	1,359	21	7	3
May 29-31				
Ticket	649	0		8
Non-Ticket	422	6		0
Total	1,071	6	0	8
Total thru May 31	18,216	1,161	1,320	143

- Impacts from all treaty Indian fisheries combined totaled 8.7% (10% harvest rate provided for in Agreement) of the upriver run.

2003 Winter/Spring Columbia River Compact/Joint State Hearings

Date	Meeting	Purpose
December 18, 2002	Compact (ODFW – Portland)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Set Jan-Feb commercial sturgeon fishery ❖ Set commercial smelt fishery ❖ Set treaty winter commercial season ❖ Set treaty January setline fishery
January 24, 2003	Compact (Telephone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Modified commercial sturgeon fishery
January 31, 2003	Compact (Telephone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Closed commercial sturgeon fishery
February 6, 2003	Compact/Joint State Sport Hearing (WREC – Vancouver)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Announced 2003 LCR sport sturgeon season ❖ Adopted 2003-2005 commercial sturgeon fishery protocol ❖ Set commercial spring chinook fishery ❖ Set commercial shad season ❖ Set SAFE spring chinook commercial seasons ❖ Set spring chinook sport seasons
February 20, 2003	Compact (Telephone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Closed commercial spring chinook fishery ❖ Set voluntary commercial Test Fishing strategy
February 26, 2003	Compact (Telephone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Continued closure of commercial spring chinook fishery ❖ Closed Youngs Bay winter commercial season
March 4, 2003	Compact (ODFW – Portland)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Continued closure of commercial spring chinook fishery ❖ Set Deep River SAFE commercial fishery
March 12, 2003	Compact (Telephone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Continued closure of commercial spring chinook fishery ❖ Closed sale of spring chinook in treaty winter season
March 19, 2003	Comp act (Telephone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Set 10 hr commercial spring chinook fishery
April 1, 2003	Joint State Sport Hearing (Telephone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Closed spring chinook sport fishery I-5 to Bonneville ❖ Restricted sport fishery below I-5 to 4 days/week (Wed – Sat)
April 15, 2003	Joint State Sport Hearing (Telephone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Continued 4 day/week fishery below I-5

Date	Meeting	Purpose
April 22, 2003	Compact/Joint State Sport Hearing (Telephone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Modified Youngs Bay commercial fishery ❖ Continued 4 day/week sport fishery below I-5
April 23, 2003	Compact (Telephone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Set treaty commercial spring chinook fishery
April 24, 2003	Compact (Telephone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Reduced commercial SAFE fisheries
April 28, 2003	Compact/Joint State Sport Hearing (Telephone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Continued 4 day/week sport fishery below I-5 ❖ Reduced Bonneville to McNary Dam sport fishery to 4 days/week (Wed – Sat) ❖ Further reduced commercial SAFE fisheries ❖ Closed Tongue Point SAFE commercial fishery
May 5, 2003	Joint State Sport Hearing (Telephone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Continued 4 day/week sport fishery below I-5 ❖ Continued 4 day/week sport fishery Bonneville to McNary ❖ Changed opening day in Youngs Bay commercial fishery to Wednesday
May 21, 2003	Compact (Telephone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Set treaty Indian commercial fishery
May 28, 2003	Compact/Joint State Sport Hearing (Telephone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Set treaty Indian commercial fishery ❖ Set summer chinook selective sport fishery from Rocky Point/Tongue Point upstream to Highway 395 Bridge June 16-July 31.
June 5, 2003	Compact (Telephone)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Set treaty Indian commercial setline fisheries in Bonneville and John Day pools

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
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